AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) An implantable device for therapeutically or prophylactically treating the annulus of a patient's intervertebral disc, the annulus having an aperture having an aperture dimension along a selected axis, said device comprising a body having a delivery configuration and an implanted configuration, and further comprising a flexible bladder, wherein:

in said delivery configuration said device has at least one first dimension no larger than said aperture dimension;

in said implanted configuration said device has at least one second dimension larger than said aperture dimension~~; and~~

~~wherein, in said delivery configuration, said device is constructed to pass substantially through said aperture, and in said implanted configuration, said device is constructed to span the aperture subannularly substantially along said selected axis with substantially no trauma to the aperture~~.

50. (Previously Presented) The implantable device of claim 49, wherein said second dimension lies along a different axis than said first dimension.

51. (Previously Presented) The implantable device of claim 50, wherein, in use, said device is constructed and sized to be capable of subannular reorientation.

52. (Previously Presented) The implantable device of claim 51, wherein said reorientation comprises rotation.

53. (Previously Presented) The implantable device of claim 51, wherein said reorientation comprises deforming the device.

54. (Previously Presented) The implantable device of claim 49, wherein said second dimension results from causing or allowing the device to expand from said delivery configuration.

55. (Previously Presented) The implantable device of claim 49, wherein said aperture dimension is a lateral width measured substantially perpendicular to the normal axis of the spine.

56. (Previously Presented) The implantable device of claim 49, wherein said aperture dimension is a height measured substantially parallel to the normal axis of the spine.

57. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of synthetic biocompatible material.

58. (Currently amended) The implantable device of claim [[57]] 49, wherein ~~said biocompatible material is~~ at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of polyethylene terephthalate.

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of bioresorbable material.

60. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of polytetrafluoroethylyene.

61. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of material to facilitate regeneration of disc tissues.

62. (Previously presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of flexible, resilient material.

63. (Canceled).

64. (Canceled).

65. (Currently amended) The device of claim [[64]] 49, wherein said bladder further comprises a fluid.

66. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 65, wherein said fluid is a gel.

67. (Canceled).

68. (Canceled).

69. (Canceled).

70. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of a polymer.

71. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 70, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of a polymeric sheet.

72. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of allograft.

73. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of autograft.

74. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of xenograft.

75. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of porous mesh.

76. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of fibrous material.

77. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of biocompatible fabric.

78. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, further comprising an attachment element for facilitating fixation of the device to anatomical features of the patient.

79. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 78, wherein said anatomical features include vertebral bodies.

80. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 78, wherein said anatomical features include the annulus fibrosus.

81. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, further comprising attachment means for securing said device within the patient.

82. (Currently amended) The device of claim 81, wherein said attachment means comprise at least one suture ~~sutures~~.

83. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 81, wherein said attachment means comprise tension bands.

84. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 81, wherein said attachment means comprise staples.

85. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 81, wherein said attachment means comprise barbs.

86-91. (Canceled).

92. (Previously presented) The device of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of the device is formed at least in part of polymer fibers.

93. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 61 wherein the material for facilitating regeneration includes at least in part a ~~tissue~~ growth factor.

94. (New) The device of claim 66, wherein said fluid is a hydrogel.

95. (New) The device of claim 66, wherein said bladder further comprises a dehydrated hydrogel.

96. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein said bladder further comprises an expansive foam.

97. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein said bladder comprises a semi-permeable membrane.

98. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein said bladder comprises a non-permeable membrane.

99. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein said bladder is inflatable.

100. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein said bladder is expandable by injection.

101. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein said bladder is configured to fill a void in the intervertebral disc cavity in an expanded state.